

Rotavirus Vaccine VAC-FACT



Did you know? – Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhea in infants and young children.

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| Rotavirus Infection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotavirus infection is nearly universal. Almost all children in the United States are infected by 5 years of age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Worldwide, up to 500,000 children die per year due to rotavirus infection. ➢ In the US, rotavirus infection is responsible for more than 200,000 emergency department visits, 55,000 - 70,000 hospitalization, and 20 – 60 deaths per year. • Rotavirus infection in infants and young children may cause severe diarrhea with fever and vomiting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Complications include dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, and metabolic acidosis. Children aged 3 to 35 months are at increased risk for severe disease. • Transmission is by fecal-oral route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ In Alaska, peak incidence typically occurs from February to late spring. | |
| State-supplied Rotavirus Vaccine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral vaccine containing 5 reassortant rotaviruses • Presentation – single 2ml dose in squeezable plastic tube with twist-off cap • Brand name RotaTeq®, manufactured by Merck | |
| Components | Live virus: Yes | Thimerosal: No |
| Recommended Schedule | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants should receive 3 doses of RotaTeq® orally at ages 2, 4, and 6 months • Interval between doses can be 4 to 10 weeks • Minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks | |
| SPECIAL TIMING CONSIDERATIONS | DOSE #1 | <i>Administer between 6 weeks and 14 weeks+6 days of age DO NOT BEGIN SERIES IF AGED ≥ 15 WEEKS</i> |
| | DOSE #3 | <i>Administer by age 8 months 0 days DO NOT CONTINUE SERIES IF AGED > 8 mos 0 days</i> |
| Safety | <p>A previous rotavirus vaccine, RotaShield® (Wyeth-Ayerst), was associated with increased risk of intussusception and was removed from the market. The current rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq® (Merck), was extensively tested pre-licensure and is being closely monitored. To date, the rate of intussusception in RotaTeq® vaccinees is consistent with the number of cases expected in unvaccinated children. Report any possible cases of vaccine-associated intussusception to VAERS http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/iso/research_activities/vaers.htm</p> | |

For more information see product insert or:

- Alaska Epidemiology Bulletin “Rotavirus vaccine now available from Alaska Immunization Program”
http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/bulletins/docs/b2007_07.pdf
- ACIP Provisional Recommendations for the Prevention of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis July 1, 2008
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/roto-7-1-08-508.pdf>
- Call the **Alaska Immunization Helpline** at **888-430-4321** or **269-8088 in Anchorage**

Vaccinate Alaska Coalition (VAC) seeks to protect the health of all Alaskans by decreasing vaccine-preventable disease through positive immunization promotion campaigns, support of local immunization coalitions, and increased private and public provider participation in immunization activities.

Vaccinate Alaska Coalition website: www.vaccinate.alaska.gov

This and other VAC-FACTs are posted on the web at <http://hss.state.ak.us/dph/director/vaccinateAK/VAC-Fact.htm>